

EXHIBIT

7

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
3 FLORENCE DIVISION

4 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
5 ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE,
6 INC. BY AND THROUGH ITS MYRTLE
7 BEACH BRANCH, SIMUEL JONES,
8 LESLIE STEVENSON, AND CEDRIC STEVENSON,

9 Plaintiffs,

10 vs. CASE NO. 4:18-CV-005540-MGL

11 CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH, A MUNICIPAL
12 CORPORATION WITHIN THE STATE OF
13 SOUTH CAROLINA AND CITY OF
14 MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT,
15 A DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH,

16 Defendants.

17 DEPOSITION OF: JAKE EVANS

18 DATE: November 5, 2018

19 TIME: 9:07 a.m.

20 LOCATION: BATTLE LAW FIRM
21 1200 Main Street
22 Conway, SC

23 TAKEN BY: Counsel for the Defendants

24 REPORTED BY: Lauren A. Balogh, Court Reporter

25 A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR., & ASSOCIATES

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1 A. Yes, I was a city council member before
2 I became mayor.

3 Q. And how long were you a council member?

4 A. From 2004 to 2012 maybe.

5 Q. Okay. And do you own any businesses in
6 Atlantic Beach?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. Tell me what those businesses
9 are.

10 A. Evans Motel.

11 Q. Okay. And how many rooms does Evans
12 Motel have?

13 A. 14.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And I'm not the sole owner of Evans
16 Motel.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. It's owned by me and my family, my
19 brothers and sisters and my mother.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Family owned.

22 Q. I've got you.

23 Are you the -- kind of like the
24 property manager or --

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I've got you. All right.

14

2 So I guess it's safe to say you have a
3 lot of experience with Atlantic Beach; you're very
4 familiar with that community?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Tell me about Atlantic Beach
7 Bike Week or tell me, what do you call it? It's a
8 motorcycle event over Memorial weekend. What do
9 you call it?

10 A. Well, it was the Atlantic Beach Bike
11 Fest, and now it's called the Atlantic Beach
12 Cultural Heritage Festival and Bike Fest.

13 Q. Okay. And so for this deposition do
14 you want to call it Atlantic Beach Bike Fest?

15 A. You can.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. It's fine with me.

18 Q. Okay. So how long -- how long has this
19 been -- has this event been going on in Atlantic
20 Beach?

21 A. 1980 was the first Bike Fest.

22 Q. Okay. And how do you remember that?

23 A. I remember it. It was a very small
24 event. We did have a parade. And it was just
25 something put into place to try to bring business

1 to Atlantic Beach.

15

2 Q. Okay. And so since from 1980 to, you
3 know, 2018 -- and no reason to believe there's not
4 going to be one in 2019; is that fair to say?

5 A. That's fair to say.

6 Q. Okay. Tell me -- so tell me like how
7 -- it was a small gathering in the beginning in
8 1980?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Tell me how it's changed over the
11 years.

12 A. The crowds are larger, and, of course,
13 that's what we wanted. I mean, of course we
14 started with it to try to bring more people to
15 Atlantic Beach, and over the years it grew to
16 actually what we wanted it to become.

17 Q. Sure. I've got you.

18 And so Memorial weekend comes and what
19 is -- so like was it -- how did the crowd size
20 change? Like was it each year grew a little bit
21 bigger or was there -- go ahead.

22 A. Yes, every year it's just more and more
23 people came.

24 Q. I've got you.

25 A. Just people came and enjoyed it, and

1 the word got out. Just more and more people came.

16

2 Q. Okay. And when people come to Atlantic
3 Beach Bike Fest, like what do they do?

4 A. We -- it's more of a situation where we
5 sell vendor permits, and vendors come in and --
6 food vendors, T-shirts, clothing, women's purses.
7 It's set up that way, as a festival that way.

8 Q. Okay. Are there -- is there a lot of
9 pedestrian traffic as well?

10 A. Yes. Music. A lot of pedestrian
11 traffic, yes.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. As a matter of fact, now, and it's been
14 going on for several years, that the main street is
15 not open to vehicles. I think they do allow
16 motorcycles and pedestrian traffic, is all that's
17 allowed on the main street where the vendors are
18 set up.

19 Q. I've got you. Okay.

20 So what is the -- what is the vibe or
21 -- when you go into this event, like what is it --
22 what's something that someone else would be able to
23 recognize the event is like? Does that make sense?
24 Like -- okay. So you have festivals, you have
25 carnivals, you have, you know, different types of

1 events promoted by a town. What do you feel like
2 Atlantic Beach Bike Fest is like, like a
3 comparison?

17

4 A. Comparison. I mean, I don't know what
5 to compare it to. It's unique in its own way.
6 Atlantic Beach is a very small town. And of
7 course, I think most people know that -- why
8 Atlantic Beach exists and why it's there and pretty
9 much why this festival started. If you go back to
10 the 1960s where African-Americans, if they came to
11 the Grand Strand, they had no choice but to go to
12 Atlantic Beach --

13 Q. Right.

14 A. -- until the late '60s, early '70s.
15 And after the African-Americans were able to
16 venture out and go other places, of course they did
17 that. And we wanted to keep as many of them coming
18 to Atlantic Beach as we could, so we were thinking
19 of things and ways and festivals to get started to,
20 you know, bring people back to Atlantic Beach, and
21 this motorcycle festival was the main thing we
22 started that got people to actually come back. And
23 when they come back it's -- it's a reminder of what
24 Atlantic Beach was back during the '60s when they
25 weren't able to go anywhere else. It was just

1 flooded with people, music, dancing. Actually
2 concerts. Bike shows or motorcycle shows where
3 they pick the best-looking bike and things like
4 that. And people just congregating and -- and
5 having a good time and kind of reminding themselves
6 of the past and what Atlantic Beach was back in
7 those days.

8 Q. Sure.

9 What is kind of the age range of people
10 that are in Atlantic Beach for this event?

11 A. In Atlantic Beach, I would think most
12 people are at least 30 or above. We do have some
13 younger, but the crowds are mostly people who are
14 -- range from the mid 30s on up.

15 Q. Right.

16 Are there a lot of families?

17 A. There's a few families, quite a few
18 families, yes.

19 Q. Right. Okay.

20 And do you have a lot of repeat people
21 coming back year after year?

22 A. We do. Actually even the motel I
23 manage there, Evans Motel, pretty much we've had
24 the same people in the motel since almost from the
25 very beginning.

1 Q. Right.

19

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Okay. And how long has Evans Motel
4 been open?

5 A. The early 1960s.

6 Q. Okay. That's a long time.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. And you said the name had changed and
9 added the phrase "cultural event"?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Tell me what Atlantic Beach does or
12 what was the reason for that change.

13 A. The very first year that I was mayor
14 there was an incident that occurred in Myrtle
15 Beach, and it wasn't -- as a matter of fact, there
16 was some criminal activity where some people
17 actually were shot and I think maybe a couple of
18 them even killed. And of course, the governor of
19 the state got whiff of that, and she actually came
20 to one of the council meetings in the Town of
21 Atlantic Beach. And of course, I want to say
22 discussion, it wasn't a discussion; it was just us
23 as mayor and town council hearing her opinion of
24 the events and what she would like to see in the
25 future as far as the event.

1

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

47

2

I, Lauren A. Balogh, Court Reporter and
Notary Public for the State of South Carolina at
Large, do hereby certify that the foregoing
transcript is a true, accurate, and complete
record.

8

I further certify that I am neither
related to nor counsel for any party to the cause
pending or interested in the events thereof.

11

Witness my hand, I have hereunto
affixed my official seal this 7th day of November,
2018 at Murrells Inlet, Horry County, South
Carolina.

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Lauren A. Balogh

Lauren A. Balogh
My Commission expires
April 13, 2020